

EXECUTION OF GARY GRAHAM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tonight Gary Graham, a constituent of mine, was executed.

My statement this evening is not in any way to diminish the tragedy of the victims that suffer at the hand of perpetrators, but it is to say that I believe Mr. Graham's life should indicate that we have a broken system. We need a National Federal Innocence Commission and a moratorium similar to that called for and enacted by Governor Ryan of Illinois.

The question of innocence is a question that Americans should all ask. And for our system to work, we must, in fact, make sure that the innocent have the chance to prove their innocence and the guilty are punished.

A tragedy happened today, not because Mr. Graham, who was prepared to lose his life, unfortunately; but because we did not stand on the side of justice allowing for a new trial and hearing for Mr. Graham so that we could determine his guilt or innocence.

Let us fix a broken system.

WESTERN SAHARA

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening with concern over our administration's role in trampling the rights of the people of Western Sahara.

For several years, both Morocco and Western Sahara have participated in intense negotiations led by former Secretary of State James Baker. The negotiations ended in both parties agreeing to a referendum for self-determination.

Unfortunately, the recent May 30 meeting of the U.N. revealed that both France and the U.S. administration are now willing to abandon the settlement plan and the right of the Sahrawi people through self-determination.

Our taxpayers, through the U.N., have invested \$530 million in peacekeeping to end the conflict in North-west Africa.

Why is our government supportive of East Timorese and now willing to allow the human rights of Sahrawis to be thoroughly violated?

I include for the RECORD a letter that expresses the dismay of Members of Congress on our administration's action.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2000.

Hon. WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
President, *The White House*,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are writing to express our great concern over the continued

delay in the United Nations holding a free, fair, and transparent referendum for the people of Western Sahara. The continued postponements reflect an apparent lack of willingness of the United Nations and the United States Administration to use their leadership to urge all parties involved to follow through with their commitments to uphold the fundamental human right of self-determination for the people of Western Sahara.

We are pleased that finally, after nine long years and the expenditure of approximately \$500 million on peacekeeping efforts, the United Nations was able to establish a public list of eligible voters on January 17, 2000. We know that the identification process was difficult and we congratulate the United Nations for successfully accomplishing this difficult task. We are very concerned, however, about reports in the United Nations that the U.S. Administration and the French Government are contemplating abandoning the negotiated, signed settlement plans under the pretext that there allegedly is no mechanism to enforce the result of the referendum. The May 30, 2000 meeting of the United Nations Security Council revealed that these two governments are willing to completely disregard the negotiated Settlement Plan and the right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination. Mr. President, the fact that our Administration is willing to disregard the right of the Sahrawi people to self-determination when the American Revolution was based upon that very right is shameful. We have supported the right of the people of East Timor to determine their future. The people of Western Sahara deserve no less.

It is vital that neither the United States nor any other nation or international body pre-judge the results of the referendum—a referendum which both Morocco and the Polisario have agreed to and which the United States taxpayers and others have invested over \$530 million. The failure of the United Nations to hold this referendum regarding the Western Sahara would lead to instability and insecurity in North Africa and the blame would fall squarely on the shoulders of the United Nations, the Administration of the United States, and the French Government.

Mr. President, it would be more unfortunate if the United States encouraged or was part of a movement to undermine the fundamental human right of self-determination and carefully negotiated agreements about the Western Sahara. We respectfully urge you to use your leadership position to remind the King of Morocco of his commitments to the Settlement Plan and allowing the referendum over Western Sahara to proceed without further delay.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Joseph R. Pitts; Donald M. Payne; Wayne T. Gilchrest; David M. McIntosh; William J. Jefferson; Charles T. Canady; Jim DeMint; James A. Traficant, Jr.; Eni F.H. Faleomavaega; Bob Clement; Steve Largent; Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.; Christopher H. Smith; Anna G. Eshoo; Tony P. Hall; Gene Green; Tom Tancredo; Richard H. Baker; Alcee L. Hastings; Ron Packard; Luis V. Guterrez; Robert A. Borski.

CONGRATULATING HON. PATRICK TOOMEY ON BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

(Mr. DEMINT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Republican freshmen class, I would like to express our most sincere congratulations to a Congressman who now enjoys a new and prestigious title, "Dad."

On June 12, at 2:55 a.m., our friend and colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), delightfully spoke three life-changing words, "It's a girl."

Full of energy, Bridget Kathleen Toomey entered the world with a healthy weight of 9 pounds, 7 ounces. With great pleasure, we now call the gentleman from Pennsylvania a father, but also warn him that when Bridget reaches her teenage years, it may be more difficult to hold the line on spending at home than it is in Congress.

Congratulations to both the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and his wonderful wife, Kris, in this time of joy. May God bless their new family.

EMPTY PROMISES FOR SECURITY AT LOS ALAMOS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, here we go again.

It seems that the more we learn about the security and disasters at the Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory, the worse it gets.

The FBI now believes that the hard drives disappeared on March 28, more than a month before they were reported missing. Furthermore, the two nuclear emergency safety team members who discovered a security breach failed to tell their superiors that the hard drives were even missing and, knowing of the gravity of the situation, simply launched their own personal search.

Mr. Speaker, it seems clear that the pledges of increased security made a year ago by the Department of Energy Secretary were only empty promises.

So why should the American people believe Secretary Richardson now when he asserts that there is no evidence of espionage? I suggest, conversely, that there is also no evidence that there was not espionage involved.

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A change needs to occur and it needs to occur before all our national secrets are stolen, compromised or paraded out the door of our nuclear laboratories.